Assessment on the health care services in Tihar Jail

1235. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths in the city's Tihar Jail due to various illnesses during the year 2000 as compared to the deaths in 1999;

(b) whether Government have made any critical assessment of the health care services provided in the Tihar Jail for the inmates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) What measures have been taken by Government to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The number of persons lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar who died after illness in the year 2000 was 24 as against 21 in the preceding year.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Due to their socio-cultural background, a number of prisoners in Delhi Jails are afflicted with diseases like tuberculosis, hepatitis and drug addiction prior to the confinement. The Prison Administration has set up two Directly Observed Therapy Centres (DOTCs) for tuberculosis patients in Central Jail Hospital and Female Jail in which Specialist Doctors attend to the patients. The Hospital has investigation facilities like X-ray, sputum examination and blood examination. Three de-addiction centres and two rehabilitation centres are also being run in Delhi Prisons for de toxification and rehabilitation of the drug addicts under the supervision of Medical Specialists, Psychiatrists and NGOs. The patients with serious illness are also referred to RBTB Hospital and DDU Hospital as and when required.

News-item "Musharraf Mum on Militancy"

1236. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item under the heading "Musharraf Mum on Militancy" in Times of India dated 16th January, 2001;

(b) whether it is not a serious threat to India from Pakistan side; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to deal with militancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Government have seen